

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32 (Canceled).

33. (Currently Amended) A medical data preservation system comprising:

a plurality of medical ~~device~~ institution units which
~~outputs~~ output electronic medical data including medical
5 information having medical images and management information
generated in ~~a~~ at least one medical institution over a
communication line;

a medical data receiver which automatically receives the
electronic medical data after completion of an inspection over
10 the communication line;

CI a medical data storage unit capable of storing the
electronic data received by the medical data receiver from the
plurality of medical institution units;

a storage condition designating unit for use in designating
15 a condition for storage in the medical data storage unit; and

a controller for controlling a data-stored state of the
medical data storage unit according to the condition for storage
designated by the storage condition designating unit.

34. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 33,
wherein the electronic medical data is stored by ~~a~~ the controller
both in the medical data storage unit and in an external
recording medium in accordance with the storage condition
5 designated by the storage condition designating unit.

35. (Previously Presented) The system according to
claim 33, wherein the electronic medical data is stored as
medical-record-formed medical information data in the medical
data storage unit by the controller in accordance with the
5 storage condition designating unit.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to
claim 35, wherein the medical-record-formed medical information
data is outputted in accordance with individual patient
identifying information included in the management information.

37. (Previously Presented) The system according to
claim 36, further comprising a converter which converts the
outputted medical-record-formed medical data into a patient-
understandable form.

38. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 37, wherein the patient-understandable form is one of: (i) printed and mailed to the patient and (ii) transmitted via a terminal having the individual patient identifying information.

39. (Currently Amended) A medical data preservation method comprising:

generating electronic medical data including medical information having medical images and management information in at least one medical institution;

outputting the electronic medical data over a communication line from a plurality of medical institution units corresponding to the at least one medical institution;

automatically receiving the electronic medical data over the communication line after completion of an inspection for each of the medical institution units;

storing the received medical data in a medical data storage unit;

designating a condition for storage in the medical data storage unit; and

controlling a data-stored state of the medical data storage unit according to the designated condition for storage.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the electronic medical data is stored both in the medical data storage unit and in an external recording medium in accordance with the designated storage condition.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the electronic medical data is stored as medical-record-formed medical information data in the medical data storage unit in accordance with the designated storage
5 condition.

C1 42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the medical-record-formed medical information data is outputted in accordance with individual patient identifying information included in the management information.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein the outputted medical-record-formed medical information data is converted into a patient-understandable form.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein the patient-understandable form is one of:

(i) printed and mailed to the patient and (ii) transmitted via a terminal having the individual patient identifying information.

45. (Currently Amended) A medical data preservation system comprising:

a plurality of medical institution terminal ~~unit~~ units corresponding to at least one medical institution capable of transmitting and receiving information over a communication line;

a medical data storage unit capable of transmitting and receiving information over the communication line;

cl a distributing unit which, after the medical data storage unit receives primary information transmitted from the plurality of medical institution terminal ~~unit~~ units, distributes the primary information to at least one of a plurality of terminals for examining contents of the primary information; and

an information examining terminal unit which examines the contents of the distributed primary information, generates secondary information including a response, and returns the secondary information to the medical data storage unit.

46. (Currently Amended) A medical data preservation method comprising:

transmitting primary information from at least one of a plurality of medical institution terminal ~~unit~~ units

5 corresponding to at least one medical institution over a
communication line;

receiving the primary information transmitted over the
communication line in a medical data storage unit;

10 distributing the primary information to at least one of ~~a~~
the plurality of ~~terminals~~ medical institution terminal units
which examines contents of the primary information;

examining the contents of the distributed primary
information and generating secondary information including a
response; ~~and~~

15 returning the secondary information to the medical data
storage unit; and

C1 acquiring the secondary information returned from the at
least one of the plurality of terminals which examines the
contents of the primary information to the medical data storage
20 unit.

47. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 46,
further comprising transmitting the secondary information
returned to the medical data storage unit to the at least one of
the plurality of medical institution terminal ~~unit~~ units which
5 has transmitted the primary information.

48. (New) A medical data preservation system comprising:
a plurality of medical institution units which output
electronic medical data including medical information having
medical images and management information generated in at least
5 one medical institution over a communication line;

a medical data receiver which automatically receives the
electronic medical data after completion of an inspection over
the communication line;

a medical data storage unit capable of identifying
10 individual patient identifying information included in the
management information, and storing the electronic data received
C1 by the medical data receiver from the plurality of medical
institution units;

a storage condition designating unit for use in designating
15 a condition for storage in the medical data storage unit; and

a controller for controlling a data-stored state of the
medical data storage unit according to the condition for storage
designated by the storage condition designating unit.
